

Sorcha Hazelton

From: Jade Powell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 9:35 AM
To: Senate Community and Regional Affairs
Cc: Sen. Löki Tobin; Rep. Zack Fields
Subject: HB26 Testimony

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Good morning,

I am a resident of Anchorage, Zip: 99503. I am strongly in support of the changes made in HB26, as they update statute to reflect the realities of DOT's responsibility to the state, the fiscal realities we face, and the potential that we have for positive changes in the future.

Regional transit planning with an emphasis on public transit and collaboration between regional metropolitan planning organizations (such as the one recently established in the valley) is critical to using the state's limited fiscal resources responsibly to help Alaskan's move safely and affordably around our massive state.

Here in Anchorage, we have thousands of people driving back and forth between Anchorage and the Mat-su valley every day, a trend that sees no sign of slowing down as Anchorage housing costs remain sky high and push more people to the valley. Each person who can access thoughtfully planned public transportation like Valley Transit represents a massive cost savings for that individual, leaving more money to go into local economies and counteract the affordability crisis we are facing statewide- a win for the state.

But even more powerfully, if we can shift a meaningful amount of those commuters towards alternative transit modes, we can ensure our incredibly expensive highway system capacity is preserved for others for whom alternative transit modes make less sense, AND we can strengthen our local transit networks with additional ridership that benefits everyone.

Thank you,
Jade Powell